



Data Sharing Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference

Date

25 January 2021

Remit

1. The Data Sharing Project has been set up to give *bone fide* researchers access to examinations and wider data. The aims are to:
 - a. allow evaluation of summer 2020 grading, to ensure that the public can be confident that lessons are learned
 - b. allow wider evaluation of the judgements made in awarding grades
 - c. inform university and college entrance policy
 - d. build relationships with the statistical community
2. The Advisory Committee for the Data Sharing Project has been established to provide an independent steer to the Project Board, which includes a senior representative from each of the four organisations contributing to the project: Ofqual, Ofsted, UCAS and the Department for Education. Each organisation will have a Project Team representative involved in the project.
3. The Advisory Committee for the Data Sharing Project is asked to provide the Project Board advice on how to evaluate summer 2020 outcomes, learn lessons for the future and retrieve evidence to inform technical and policy-making decisions. More specifically advice will be sought on:
 - a. what research questions could be asked and what analysis conducted
 - b. what data can be shared
 - c. the principles to determine access to the data
 - d. the mechanisms to share the data by different organisations
 - e. how to promote the use of data to external analytical experts
 - f. how to disseminate work using the data
 - g. the identification and management of risks and opportunities

4. The Advisory Committee for the Data Sharing Project will also maintain an overview on the work conducted using this data and the output of this work.

Membership

5. The Advisory Committee for the Data Sharing Project shall consist of between 5 and 8 members in total, including a Chair of the Advisory Committee nominated by Ofqual.
6. The members are appointed from the educational, assessment and statistical communities to the Advisory Committee for the Data Sharing Project to bring particular expertise and/or sector representation.
7. Appointments are made by Ofqual for the duration of the project.

Roles and responsibilities

8. Members of the Advisory Committee are asked to maintain an overview of the work conducted as part of the Data Sharing Project, consider issues and provide expert advice in relation to research and analysis conducted as part of this project as well as the sharing and use of data.
9. Project Board members will have a final say on the sharing of data held by the organisation they represent.
10. Ofqual will be responsible for organising and taking notes of the meetings.

Meetings

11. The Advisory Committee for the Data Sharing Project shall meet 3 times with the Chair calling meetings as appropriate with reasonable notice. The first meeting will steer the scope and set up of the project, the second will focus on interim progress and the third meeting will focus on dissemination. The Chair may, however, call additional meetings as s/he deems necessary.
12. In addition to members of the Advisory Committee, meetings will also be attended by members of the Project Board. Members of the Project Team of each organisation may also be invited to attend as appropriate and on invitation by Project Board members.
13. The Chair may invite other individuals to attend meetings, for example to hear a particular stakeholder or expert's point of view on a matter. The invitation may be for the entire meeting or for one or more specific item(s).

Reporting

14. Notes will be taken of each meeting of the Advisory Committee to be used by the Project Board, the Project Teams and for future meetings as a reference.

Review

15. These terms of reference will be reviewed at the first meeting of the Advisory Committee and may be considered for revision at any point on request of the Chair or Ofqual.

ANNEX

MEMBERS' APPOINTMENT

Members of the Advisory Committee for the Data Sharing Project have been appointed from the educational, assessment and statistical research communities. Members have been selected for bringing their expertise in:

- education policy and practice, to ensure that current issues in the educational and assessment debate as well as a variety of perspectives are considered
- academic research, to ensure that the data made available meets the needs of high-quality research
- educational data, to ensure that technical and ethical issues related to pupils' data are effectively addressed and best practices followed

The Committee is relatively small to make sure that discussions are as effective and meaningful as possible, especially given that meetings are attended also by staff of the 4 organisations involved in the project. Members invited to join the Committee ensure sector representation to steer the work of the organisations involved in the Data Sharing Project.